

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/790,210
Reply to OA dated December 23, 2008

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 8 are pending in this application. It is believed that this Response is fully responsive to the Office Action dated December 23, 2008.

In the Final Office Action, Claims 1, 4-6 and 8 are indicated as allowed and Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Knighton et al. and Shibata et al.

Claim 2 is presently canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

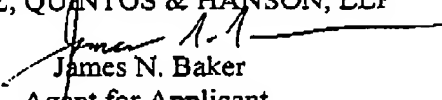
In view of the aforementioned cancelling of Claim 2 and accompanying remarks, Claims 1, 4-6 and 8 are believed to be in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

KRATZ, QUINTOS & HANSON, LLP


James N. Baker
Agent for Applicant
Reg. No. 40,899

JNB/ak

Atty. Docket No. 040096
Suite 400
1420 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 659-2930



23850

PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE